

A1
fingertip. All embodiments of the cap are placed on an upper portion of a control stick of the pointing device. A first embodiment of the cap includes a bottom support, a disc, a plurality of wire supports, and an elastic cover that overlays the disc and wire supports. An inner surface of the cover may be scored to ensure repeatable deformation of the cap. A spring may be attached to a lower surface of the disc to assist the cap in regaining its original shape once the operator's fingertip is removed. A second embodiment of the cap includes a bottom support, a plurality of wire supports, and an elastic cover overlaying the wire supports. An inner surface of the cover may be scored. The cap may be hollow or may be filled with a deformable material. A third embodiment of the cap includes a bottom support and an elastic cover in which an inner surface of the cover may be scored. The cap may be hollow or may be filled with a deformable material.

[**IN THE SPECIFICATION**

Please replace pg. 2, lines 24-29, with the amended paragraph below. A "marked-up" version of each amendment is included in **Attachment A**.

A2
Although the cap placed on the control stick may be made of a high-friction fuzzy surface (i.e., a surface with a plurality of short fiber adhered to its outer surface), the operator may still be required to exert a relatively large force to keep his/her finger from slipping off the cap. First time users may experience difficulty exerting the correct force to keep their fingers from slipping. Additionally, after extended use of the pointing device, an operator may experience pain and soreness in his/her fingertip.

[Please replace pg. 12, line 25 - pg. 13, line 4, with the amended paragraph below. A "marked-up" version of each amendment is included in **Attachment A**.

A3
Elastic cover 18 overlays wire supports 16, bottom support 43, and an upper portion of control stick 12. Cover 18 may be made from either plastic or rubber. Cover 18 is cylindrical in shape and the end of cover 18 fitted over control stick 12 is opened. A perspective view of cover 18 is depicted in Fig. 3. The outer surface of cover 18 may be made smooth. Scores 30 may be located on the inner surface of cover 18. There may be more than or less than the two scores shown on cover 18. Scores 18 are preferably adjacent to ends of wires 22. Interior 44 of cap 40 may be either hollow or filled with a deformable material. Examples of suitable deformable material include soft foam rubber, putty, air, and gel.